

South Bethany Canal Water Quality Committee
Meeting Conducted In-person and on Zoom
October 23, 2023

Committee Members Attending: John Beauregard, Bob Fisher, John Roberts, Pete Trelenberg, Chris Vanuga, Dave Wilson

Absent: Chris Carlyle, Tim Shaw (Town Council Liaison)

1. The meeting was called to order 10:02 am
2. Minutes from the September 18, 2023 meeting were approved.
3. Town Council Update (provided by C. Vanuga)
 - a. Town Council has decided to remove floating wetlands. The quote for work with Envirotech will be updated to include this. The mats were originally installed in 2018. The one exception may be the mats at the Anchorage canal end where they have become attached to the bottom of the canal. This will be reviewed further including a discussion with DNREC by Town Manager.
 - b. Town Council approved maintenance proposal for first 100 feet of canal ends. Chris will ask about timing, as the CWQC will be involved with the pre-work meeting and the final review of the work upon completion and before payment.
 - c. It is Chris' understanding that the town will work with Solitude to conduct algae removal in the spring of 2024.
 - d. Joan Marini has resigned from our committee to join the Town's resiliency committee. Tim Shaw was appointed by Town Council to officially join our committee as a member to replace Joan. Gary Lessing has resigned from our committee effectively immediately. Chris read his resignation letter of 10/23/23.
 - e. We will have to make recommendations for next year's budget early in the calendar year.
4. Maintenance
 - a. There is waste building up on the east end of the canals. Most of this is from trees, e.g. pine shats. Need to work with Town staff to determine most ideal time for the Fall cleaning by Envirotech to maximize the impact.
 - b. Pete and Chris C. talked to the person leading the Fenwick dredging project. He offered to send us more details. These will be share with the committee when they're received. Fenwick used a consultant who previously worked for DNREC and was involved in dredging projects around the State.
 - c. The Town Council asked us to focus our efforts next on dredging. The Committee agreed and work has begun starting with the planning and initial outreach to key stakeholders (e.g. DNREC, Army Core of Engineers)
 - d. We discuss the need to start a dredging sub-committee. There is a physical file on the last dredging project. Chris V. has reviewed and has notes. Anyone interested in reviewing the full files would need to set up time with the Town staff to come in and review in-person.

- e. The rain gardens in the median of Route 1 need to be maintained. Bob will contact Maureen and see if the Town has a program to maintain these or if it is maintained by the State (e.g. DelDOT). He will also ask if there is a Town program to trim vegetation that is growing over the edge of the bulkheads.
 - f. DNREC has a new watershed stewardship director. We need to engage him and his group, particularly around our plans for Dredging.
5. Code Review Education Communications
- a. Bob provided a fall cleaning reminder for the Town newsletter.
 - b. The town is doing an overall review of our codes. The Code and Charter Committee is doing this. Bob will reach out to them to understand the process, timing and how we can provide input.
 - c. Bob checked with Joseph Hinks and learned that the Town does an annual bulkhead inspection. If anyone sees a bulkhead that needs repair or doesn't meet town code, they should call Mr. Hinks.
6. Floating Wetlands
- a. Chris V. asked for a volunteer to take over the lead on this subcommittee, and to let him know before the next meeting. No further discussions.
7. Grant Funding
- a. The Town has received a grant for an engineering study to address nuisance flooding at the south end of Town on York Road.
 - b. Chris had a call with Edie to discuss how to best coordinate the grant related efforts of both this and the new Resiliency Committee that Edie is chairing, focused on the various Hazard Mitigation programs such as HMGP and BRIC.
 - c. John Roberts and Chris V. will work on exploring other grant options beyond the HM ones for the CWQC.
8. Water Quality Monitoring
- a. Chris V. reported on his various discussions with UD and State of DE groups at the UD Coast Day on 10/1/23. He will share some of the information with Dave for further discussions and exploration with this subcommittee.
 - b. Dissolved oxygen is improving. It's warmer than last year, so the levels aren't as good as 2022.
 - c. John Beauregard is experimenting with increasing flow to the dead-end areas of Petherton Canal. No clear data yet.
 - d. The Committee was encouraged to read the Tidal Pump study by Chris V., as addressing the lack of Tidal Flow in the Canal System is a top priority for the Committee to work on next along with the Dredging effort.
9. Other Committee Business
- a. John B. and Chris V. had a call with new CIB Executive Director Christophe Tulou and their community relations director Lisa Swanger on 10/5/23. Very informative

session, with commitments to keep our groups informed on relevant matters. This is a group we should stay in contact with as we work on new projects.

10. Public Comments

- a. No one was in attendance, so no discussions.

The Meeting was adjourned at 11:31 am.